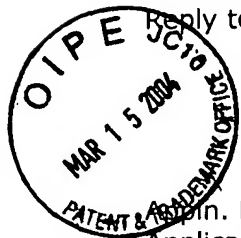


Appln. No.: 10/031,028  
Amendment Dated: March 12, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of: February 10, 2004

MAT-8217US



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No.: 10/031,028  
Applicant: Norihiro Tsuchiya, et al  
Filed: May 7, 2002  
Title: VACUUM CLEANER  
TC/A.U.: 1744  
Examiner: Terrence R. Till  
Confirmation No.: 4557  
Docket No.: MAT-8217US

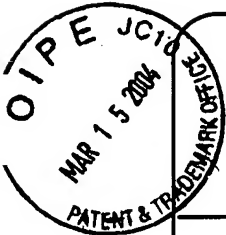
**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated February 10, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- ☒ **Amendments to the Specification** begin on page **2** of this paper.
- ☒ **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page **3** of this paper.
- ☐ **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page \_\_\_\_\_ of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet(s).
- ☐ **Amendments to the Abstract** are on page \_\_\_\_\_ of this paper. A clean version of the Abstract is on page \_\_\_\_\_ of this paper.
- ☒ **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page **7** of this paper.



## TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission 9

Application Number	10/031,028
Filing Date	May 7, 2002
First Named Inventor	Norihiro Tsuchiya, et al
Art Unit	1744
Examiner Name	Terrence R. Till
Attorney Docket No.	MAT-8217US

### ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
- ☐ Fee Attached
- ☒ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/Declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/  
Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Response to Missing Parts under  
37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a  
Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation,  
Change of Correspondence  
Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ After Allowance Communication  
to Group
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board  
of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Group  
(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply  
Brief)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) (please  
identify below):  
Return Postcard

Remarks:

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT

Firm or Individual Name	Lawrence E. Ashery	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,515
Signature			
Date	March 12, 2004		

### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION / MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date:

Typed or printed name	Lawrence E. Ashery		
Signature		Date	March 12, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Office, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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